

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. - 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a management first-computer storing one or more first programs;

a ~~second computer~~plurality of devices coupled to said management first computer via a network and storing a second program; and

a ~~third~~first computer coupled to said management first-computer via the network, said plurality of devices-second computer and said second program not being disclosed to said first third computer;

wherein said management first-computer:

stores association information related to an association between said one or more first programs and said second program,

receives, from said first third-computer, a first request for executing said one or more first programs,

determines whether or not said one or more first programs correspond to said second program on the basis of said association.

sends a second request to said plurality of devices second program when said one or more first programs correspond to said second program,

receives results of said second request from said plurality of devices second program, and

sends the results to said first third computer in response to said first request; and

wherein said plurality of devices second computer receive receives said second request, execute executes said second program and send sends execution results as said results of said second request to said management first computer without disclosure to the first third computer of said plurality of devices second computer or said second program; and

wherein the second program executed manages hardware and software resources of the plurality of devices, and the first program executed provides information about the resources of the plurality of devices to the first computer.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 26, further comprising:

a second fourth computer coupled to said management first computer, said plurality of devices second computer, and said first third computer via the network, wherein:

said second ~~fourth~~ computer collects a plurality of location information related to locations where said one or more first programs or said second program are stored, stores said plurality of location information with both said one or more first programs and said second program, and generates said association information.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 27, wherein  
said association information is a hierarchy information indicating whether said one or more first programs are of a higher level than said second program associated with said one or more first programs.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 28, wherein  
said second-~~fourth~~ computer determines which program of said first or second programs is of a higher level than its associated program on the basis of said hierarchy information, and sends, to said first ~~third~~ computer, a location of the program which is a higher level than its associated program.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 29, wherein  
said one or more first programs and said associated second program are executed as programs related to a common function.

31. (Currently Amended) A management first computer comprising:

a network interface to be coupled to a plurality of devices second computer and a first third computer via a network, said plurality of devices second computer not being disclosed to said first third computer;

a processor coupled to said network interface;

a memory coupled to said processor;

wherein said memory stores a plurality of first programs which is a target of a request from the first third computer and said memory further stores association information regarding said first programs and a second program which is stored in said plurality of devices second computer,

wherein said processor receives, via said network interface, a request from said first third computer for executing one of said first programs, refers to said association information to determine whether said first program as a target to be executed is associated with said second program, when said first program as a target to be executed is associated with said second program, said processor sends to said plurality of devices second computer via said network interface, an instruction for executing said second program in said plurality of devices second computer, receives results of said instruction via said network interface via the network, and sends, to said first third computer, a reply of said request including said results of instruction, said plurality of devices second computer and said second program remaining undisclosed to said first third computer, and

wherein the second program executed manages hardware and software resources of the plurality of devices, and the first program executed provides information about the resources of the plurality of devices to the first computer.

32. (Currently Amended) A management first computer according to claim 31,  
wherein

said association information includes a hierarchy information indicating whether said first program is of a higher level than said associated second program.

33. (Currently Amended) A management first computer according to claim 2732,  
wherein

said first program and said second program associated with said first program are executed as programs related to a common function.

34. - 37. (Canceled)